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July 27, 2007

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Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S. 4th Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

Ravalli County Commissioners

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REF: Lost Horse Quarry, Hamilton.

Dear Commissioners,

This letter is in support of allowing the Road and Bridge Department to utilize the fallen aggregate at the Lost Horse Quarry. The cooperative efforts of the Forest Service, good stewardship of resources and confidence in staff lead me to this conclusion.

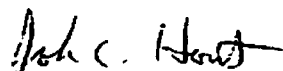
It is my understanding that both the Forest Service roads and County roads will benefit from the use of the quarry. Having an available source of good aggregates will enable roads to be safer. Utilization of the quarry appears to be during non peak tourist season and traffic should be more limited during this time period.

Both the County and the Forest Service require aggregate for maintenance. This material is available for utilization and at a cost effective price. Utilizing other sources which do not appear to be presently available may not be cost effective. If another source is not found, fewer roads will be able to be maintained.

I have confidence that the Road and Bridge Department has adequately looked into the issues that have been raised surrounding the use of the quarry. As I have seen in the paper over the last ten (10) years, citizen concern over road maintenance has been a significant issue valley wide and the Road and Bridge Department has strived to provide the best possible services. I am sure that adequate mitigation efforts will be conducted for the issues that have been raised such as not running trucks during hours of school bus utilization and not impacting the existing climbing site.

Please consider all the issues and make the appropriate decision which will benefit the majority of Ravalli County residents.

Sincerely,



John C. Horat
1180 Eastside Highway
Corvallis, MT 59828

CC Chuck Oliver, Bitterroot National Forest, Darby District
Dave Ohnstad, Ravalli County Road and Bridge Department